

Duty Calls

The California
National Guard
Mobilizes

PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

An HH-60 helicopter, belonging to the 126th Medical Company is loaded onto an Air Force C-17 for its long flight to Afghanistan.

By Major Stan Zezotarski, HQ, STARC

In October 2001, total California National Guard activation exceeded the wartime totals of the Persian Gulf War—climbing to more than 3,600 soldiers and airmen activated in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE and nearly 500 Guardsmen in support of state homeland security missions, according to Joint Operations Center reports.

Since October 2001, more than 7,000 California Army and Air National Guardsmen have served in the War on Terrorism at either the federal or state level, more than quadrupling the over 1,600 called up for the Persian Gulf War in 1990. Although these numbers dwindled to nearly 2,000 soldiers and airmen supporting the War on Terrorism at the federal or state level in recent months, they began climbing in February. Nearly 1,200 soldiers from the 870th Military Police Company, the 270th Military Police Company, the 1498th Transportation Company, and the 1072nd Transportation company gathered at Camp Roberts for intensive training and preparation for the Middle East. The nation will rely heavily on the California National Guard as the United States prepares to join coalition nations against Saddam Hussein to force him to comply with United Nations' resolutions to disarm and destroy any

weapons of mass destruction belonging to Iraq.

Currently, more than 1,500 California Army Guardsmen are on federal active duty and another 3,500 are on alert preparing for mobilization, according to the Directorate of Operations and Training, California National Guard. Nearly 1,100 California Air National Guard members are currently mobilized and almost half of those are deployed to overseas locations, according to California Air National Guard reports. Additional Air Guard units throughout the state expect to receive mobilization orders in the near future in support of the War on Terrorism.

"For several years, the Air Force has utilized a 15-month Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) construct cycle to support operations around the world," said Lieutenant Colonel Nash Cooper, Executive Officer for the California Air National Guard. "The AEF mission

was modified somewhat after 9/11 to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM overseas and Operation NOBLE EAGLE here at home. The current AEF cycle was frozen in late January 2003. Deployed units are remaining in place overseas and additional forces are being deployed independent of the established AEF construct," says Cooper. "Eventually, the Air National Guard expects to resume an established overseas rotation schedule to take advantage of volunteerism and manage our long-term operations and personnel tempo."

Major General Paul D. Monroe, Jr., the California National Guard's Adjutant General, has directed his staff to ensure that deploying Guardsmen have the best equipment available during their rotations, leaving him with a unique challenge that few California adjutants general have faced since World War II: continue supporting the state mission with fewer resources. For example, California recently acquired two HH60L

helicopters equipped with enough oxygen outlets, IV hookups, and stretchers to carry six critically wounded soldiers from battlefield to hospital. The well-trained crews and their new state-of-the-art helicopters are perfect for state missions of high altitude search and rescue, and flood and fire evacuation, but Major

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General Monroe opted to send the new helicopters where they are needed most. "It's a soldier's best chance for survival," he said. General Monroe has chosen to accept the daunting task of revising the state emergency plans to account for declining resources and tasked his immediate staff to accept the challenge.

"We're trained to assess, evaluate, and overcome challenges," said Lieutenant Colonel Terry Edinboro, operations officer in the Joint Operations Center. "We will meet The Adjutant General's challenge and provide a high level of services with fewer resources."

The Adjutant General is very grateful to the men and women of the California National Guard for honoring their pledge to defend their country against enemies both foreign and domestic, no matter the cost. He openly marvels at this courage: "I'm awestruck by the soldiers' and airmen's attitudes, I don't think I could do what

they do,” General Monroe said.

But behind the scenes General Monroe continues to encourage his headquarters staff to provide soldiers and airmen the highest quality support possible in family support, employer support, and public support. “It’s my intent to reduce and limit the number of distractions that could impact our guardsmen’s concentration on their missions,” General Monroe recently said.

The following summary of California National Guard mobilizations since September 11, 2001 is current as of March 20, 2003:

California Army National Guard Past Mobilizations

- The 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion deployed a Tactical Human Intelligence Team of four soldiers to Bosnia, mobilizing in August 2001, and demobilizing in May 2002. The soldiers mobilized in Oregon with a Military Intelligence Company from the Oregon Army National Guard, and deployed to Bosnia in September 2001.
- The 1-184 Infantry Battalion (-) supported two rotations of 160 soldiers each to Kuwait on Operation DESERT SPRING. They provided security to Camp Doha and Patriot Missile sites in Kuwait. A total of 360 soldiers deployed on this mission. They mobilized through Camp Roberts in rotations that lasted from September 2001 through February 2002, and from January 2002 through June 2002.
- The 1-160 Infantry Battalion (-) supported two rotations of 74 soldiers each to Saudi Arabia for Operation DESERT SPRING. They provided security to Patriot Missile sites in Saudi Arabia. A total of 148 soldiers deployed on this mission. They mobilized through Camp Roberts in rotations that lasted from September 2001 through February 2002, and from January 2002 through June 2002.
- The HHD, 49th Military Police Battalion, 270th and 870th Military Police Companies mobilized in early October 2001 and deployed to Fort Lewis, Washington. They provided force protection to Fort Lewis, and demobilized in July 2002 (HHD and 870th MP Co) and September 2002 (270th MP Co). A total of 405 soldiers deployed on this mission.
- A detachment of 42 soldiers from the 649th Military Police Company mobilized on November 6, 2001 and deployed to Fort Irwin to provide force protection there and at a local airfield. They demobilized in July 2002.
- The 1-185th Infantry Battalion mobilized in early October 2001, processed through Fort Lewis, and

deployed to provide force protection at Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon, Sierra Army Depot, Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Roberts’ Satellite Command, Riverbank Ammunition Depot in California, Hawthorne Chemical Depot in Nevada, and Fort Huachuca in Arizona. A total of 558 soldiers deployed on this mission. They remained on active duty for a year, and demobilized in September 2002.

- A total of 525 soldiers deployed to Toole Chemical Depot, Dugway Proving Grounds, and Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah to provide force protection. They remained on active duty for a year, and demobilized in September 2002.
- The 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion deployed three soldiers, Arabic linguists, to Multi-national Force and Observers, Sinai, Egypt, from November 2001 to August 2002. The soldiers provided translation support to an Infantry task force from the Arkansas Army National Guard.
- The California Army National Guard put together a 321-soldier task force to augment the Immigration and Naturalization Service and United States Customs Service along the Mexican/U.S. border. This task force, drawn from volunteers from throughout the California



PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON, SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE

Soldiers from the 870th MP Company guard a “prisoner of war collection point” during training at Camp Roberts.

Army National Guard, mobilized in March 2002, and performed its mission until August 2002. It mobilized and demobilized at Fort Lewis, and was stationed at nine entry points from San Diego to the Arizona border.

California Air National Guard Past Mobilizations

Since September 11, 2001, the California Air National Guard has deployed nearly 900 personnel and 24 aircraft to 20 countries and accomplished 49,951 deployed workdays. This unprecedented level of activity included operations, maintenance, and expeditionary combat support personnel.

- Security Forces personnel from the 129th Rescue Wing were called into action almost immediately in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM at a classified location. Other 129th personnel were mobilized for homeland security in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE and for airport security in support of AEROSAFE.
- The 144th Fighter Wing was mobilized almost instantly on September 11, 2001. Within minutes of the first airplane crash into the World Trade Center, the Wing had F-16 fighter jets poised and ready to launch to protect California and the Western United States. Since then, the Wing has continued to support Operation NOBLE EAGLE and maintained a 100 percent aircraft delivery rate in support of homeland security. The 144th continued its support of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force and has also deployed personnel in direct support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- Nearly 75 percent of the 146th Airlift Wing was mobilized for Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM and nearly 200 were activated for airport security at Los Angeles International Airport through May 2002 in support of AEROSAFE. Other unit activity included the deployment of 40 wing members to Southern Belize in February 2002 to deliver medical, dental, and optometry services to a rural population with limited access to health care.
- Nearly all of the 163rd Air Refueling Wing's Security Forces Squadron was activated to respond to world events following September 11, 2001. Some members deployed to overseas locations as Cuba and Turkey in support of Operations NORTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM while others performed duty at Travis AFB in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. In addition, the 163rd also provided airport security at the Ontario International Airport in support of Operation AEROSAFE.



Shortly after 9/11, several members of the 144th Fighter Wing were federalized at home station. Its fully-loaded F-16s have flown hundreds of Combat Air Patrol missions.

PHOTO BY LT COL J. T. TAGGETT

- More than 200 personnel from the 162nd Combat Communications Group performed airport security duty at five different airports in support of AEROSAFE. The Group's 148th Space Operations Squadron supported military communications around the world, including the launch of more than 1,300 Tomahawk cruise missiles during the first three weeks of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The 216th Engineering Installation Squadron deployed to the island of Diego Garcia and to various locations including Al Udeid, Qatar, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to help install communication systems vital to the command and control of military forces.

California Army National Guard Current Mobilizations

- A Company, 5 Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, mobilized August 15, 2002 through Fort Carson, Colorado. It deployed 75 soldiers to Afghanistan, where they are currently performing operations. It also mobilized two soldiers to serve as instructors at the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, and three soldiers to attend the course.
- The HHC, 250th Military Intelligence Battalion mobilized 27 soldiers on March 25, 2002. The soldiers

received additional training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and are currently augmenting the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion. Some deployed to Afghanistan, and some to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Others remained at Fort Lewis. Three are currently designated to stay on active duty for a second year when the unit demobilizes in March 2003.

- The 1-149 Armor Battalion mobilized 126 soldiers on September 3, 2002 to provide force protection at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California and Camp Roberts' Satellite Command. The soldiers mobilized through Fort Lewis.

- The 132d Engineer Battalion mobilized 248 soldiers on September 3, 2002 to provide force protection at Toole Chemical Depot and Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. The soldiers were mobilized through Fort Lewis.

- The 40th Military Police Company mobilized 145 soldiers on September 9, 2002 to provide force protection at Fort Lewis, Washington. They are currently assigned to the 504th Military Police Battalion at Fort Lewis.

- Numerous soldiers have deployed as filler personnel or as volunteers.

- The 1106th AVCRAD has one soldier serving as a C-23 pilot supporting Stabilization Force operations in Bosnia out of Germany, and one soldier supporting an ENDURING FREEDOM aviation maintenance mission. The 126th Medical Company and Company B, 1-140th Aviation Battalion each has one volunteer mobilized to support an ENDURING FREEDOM mission providing helicopter pilots to the active Army.

- The 640th Military Intelligence Battalion has two officers working in the 1st Information Operations Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. There are also two officers, one from 40th DIVARTY and one from HQ(-) STARC, working in the Pentagon Operations Center.

- The 69th Press Camp Headquarters mobilized on December 27, 2002 and is currently deployed on a classified mission supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Fifteen soldiers from the headquarters in Fairfield mobilized, and they were joined by two soldiers

from the unit's detachment in Reno, Nevada.

- G Company, 140th Aviation, mobilized January 6, 2003, and moved to Fort Lewis on January 9, 2003. On March 13, 2003, approximately 40 soldiers deployed on a classified mission supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

- The 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) mobilized on January 25, 2003 reporting to Fort Lewis two days later. About 30 California Army National Guard soldiers and nearly 10 Nevada soldiers will deploy on a classified mission supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

- Nearly 600 soldiers from the 1-144 Field Artillery

Battalion and the 578th Engineer Battalion will guard nine Air Force or Air Guard bases in California. The soldiers will augment Security Police airmen to provide force protection to the air bases. These soldiers mobilized January 30, 2003 and deployed to Fort Lewis for processing on February 2, 2003. They will mobilize for one year, being replaced by other California Army National Guard units in the second year of this mission.

- The 649th Military Police Company has been alerted for possible mobilization. The mobilization date is unknown. It will deploy nearly 50 soldiers on a

classified mission supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

- The 640th Military Intelligence Battalion has been alerted for mobilization in support of Kosovo Force Operations, with mobilization estimated to be in the March/April 2003 timeframe.

- The 170th Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigation Division) is mobilizing three special agents in support of Kosovo operations on Kosovo Force Operations with mobilization estimated for April 2003.

- Nearly 30 soldiers from the 223d Military Intelligence Battalion are scheduled to deploy to Bosnia in support of Stabilization Forces on May 14, 2003.

- About 10 soldiers from the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion are scheduled to deploy to Kosovo in support of Kosovo Force Operations in November 2003.

- Nearly 1,200 soldiers from the 870th Military Police



Governor Gray Davis and MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr., The Adjutant General meet with soldiers of the deploying 270th MP Co.

PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

Company, the 270th Military Police Company, the 1498th Transportation Company, and the 1072nd Transportation company are mobilized for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM..

- The 349th Quartermaster Company mobilized 116 soldiers on February 7, 2003 for a one-year tour. They are currently at Fort Lewis training for a classified mission supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- The 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion mobilized 94 soldiers on February 10, 2003 for a one-year tour. They mobilized through Fort Lewis on February 14, 2003 and deployed to Fort Bragg eight days later to join with 19 soldiers from E Company, Massachusetts Army National Guard. They will then deploy on a classified mission in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- The 2632nd Transportation Company mobilized 155 soldiers on February 10, 2003 for a one-year tour. The soldiers mobilized through Fort Lewis, Washington on February 20, 2003 and will deploy on a classified mission in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- The 1498th Transportation Company mobilized 286 soldiers on February 11, 2003 for a one-year tour. The soldiers mobilized through Fort Lewis on February 20, 2003. After conducting collective training on their Heavy Equipment Transport Vehicles at Camp Roberts in March, they will deploy on a classified mission in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- The 640th Military Intelligence Battalion mobilized 63 soldiers on March 3, 2003 for a one-year tour. They mobilized through Fort Stewart on March 7, 2003 and will then deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM with duty station in Kosovo.
- The 1-185th Armor Battalion has received an alert order in support of the 81st Enhanced Separate Brigade. This will include the B Company, 898th Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Detachment, B Company, 181st Support Battalion. The mission will be a one-year tour, mobilizing through Fort Carson, Colorado.
- C Company, 579th Engineer Battalion, has been tasked with a mission to provide six engineer soldiers as dog handlers for a K-9 unit locating minefields. This will be a one-year tour in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- The 170th Military Police (CID) Detachment will mobilize three soldiers on April 23, 2003 for a one-year tour. They will mobilize through Fort Stewart on April 26, 2003 and will deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM with duty station in Kosovo
- The 250th Military Intelligence Battalion is scheduled



MC-130P and HH-60G aircraft of the 129th Rescue Wing are deployed at Incirlik AB, Turkey.

HH-60G PHOTO BY TED CARLSON/FOTODYNAMICS. MC-130P PHOTO BY USAF

to deploy 44 soldiers in support of Stabilization Forces to Bosnia in September 2003.

- The 250th Military Intelligence Battalion is scheduled to deploy 10 soldiers in support of Kosovo operations in November 2003.

California Air National Guard Current Mobilizations

The mobilization picture for the California Air National Guard is very busy and getting busier.

- More than 150 129th Rescue Wing personnel, two MC-130P and four HH-60G aircraft are currently deployed in support Operation NORTHERN WATCH.
- The 144th Fighter Wing has almost 150 personnel mobilized for Operation NOBLE EAGLE and 50 personnel deployed overseas.
- The 146th Airlift Wing recently mobilized nearly 500 personnel for CONUS support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
- The 163rd Air Refueling Wing has deployed almost 200 personnel and six KC-135R aircraft overseas in support of Operations in the Middle East.
- More than 30 personnel from the 162nd Combat Communications Group are deployed to various locations for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Units of the California Air National Guard are among the largest contributors to our nation's defense. 🐾